

**Readington Township  
WaterWatch Advisory Meeting Minutes  
January 25, 2022**

**OPEN MEETING**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Orlandi at 7:06 p.m. stating that the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting had been duly advertised.

**Members in Attendance**

Mario Orlandi - Chair  
Robert Becker  
Steve Foster  
Agostino Pietrangelo  
David Owen  
Rene Rao  
Jonathan Heller  
Susan Masinda

Other Attendees – Marlene Orlandi, Neil Hendrickson

**Minutes**

Ms. Rao moved, and Mr. Becker seconded, a motion to approve the minutes for November 16, 2021, as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of 2022 Meeting Dates**

Mr. Becker moved, and Ms. Rao seconded, a motion to approve the proposed 2022 meeting dates. The motion carried unanimously.

**Committee Member Updates**

Mr. Orlandi requested that each member briefly reflect on the committee's 2021 activities and their thoughts and ideas going forward in 2022. These items are summarized as follows:

Mr. Foster – Expressed congratulations to the committee on completion of the first year as new advisory board for Readington Township. Shared that the number of residents testing well water as well as the types of testing done was considered superior; need to share results so more people get involved in the future. Would like to focus on the following topics for 2022 – Septic maintenance, stormwater, well-testing, clean water/stream cleaning/water care. He also stressed not to look at these activities as one-time events; they need to be acted up on all year.

Mr. Pietrangelo – Spoke of the importance of setting goals and knowing the limitations of what can be don as far as the committee goes. Recommended that the structure of the meeting change so that the meeting does not run long. Suggested having a “parking lot” to address items that require more time than can be addressed in a single meeting. Would like to look for a way to utilize social media.

- Ms. Rao – Expressed agreement with the points that Mr. Foster and Mr. Pietrangelo made. Enjoyed the success of the rain garden and rain barrel workshop. Reiterated that stream cleaning is a topic to focus on. Additionally, there is a need to focus on community outreach and education. Suggested the use of both paper flyers and digital flyers for this purpose as well the use of schools and digital backpack.
- Mr. Owen - Stated that this is the first time he has participated in a formal committee and has enjoyed the time so far. Expressed thanks to Mr. Becker for taking him on a tour of the entire Pleasant Run stream; found it very educational. Spoke of Raritan Headwaters (RHA) as also very educational. Reported on the attendance of the Hunterdon County Commissioners meeting where new commissioners were sworn in.
- Mr. Heller - Suggested that it may be beneficial to occasionally have a second meeting in a month to address topics. Shared that the Township had purchased trusses in the past to be used to create a bridge to cross streams. To do this requires DEP permits; will look to Chris John and Juergen Huelsebusch to assist in navigating the process with the DEP. Suggested that Chair Orlandi submit a request for a budget for RWW so that advertising can be purchased. Raised the topic of stream inspections and identify those properties that have drains that go directly into the streams and not into the septic system.
- Ms. Masinda – Spoke of the proposal of new cemeteries and concerns on groundwater. Has been working with NRCS in addressing some of the issues with local farms and the need to keep farm animals out of the streams. Reported that the septic issues at the Fountain Motel have been resolved. Updated the members on the work done on Route 22 by Cushetunk; DOT did the work and dredged into the channel. Time will tell if this has a positive impact on flooding in that area. Reported that the Board of Health will be reaching out to the Community on a quarterly basis regarding the importance of septic maintenance.
- Mr. Becker – Reported that Readington Township does a great job with regard to Sustainable Jersey than many other municipalities. Expressed a desire for RWW to have a social media presence. Requested that members provide feedback when requested based on emails sent. Would like to focus on action-oriented activities. Asked about Stream Stewards and requested a list.

Prescott Brook – Mario Orlandi  
Chambers Brook – Neil Hendrickson  
Pleasant Run – Robert Becker  
Rockaway Creek – Susan Masinda  
Holland Brook – Bill Millet

- Mr. Orlandi - Agreed with the need to getting community members more involved. Was asked about his goal going forward which is to keep doing what they have been doing but do it better.

### **Non-Committee Member Update**

Marlene Orlandi agreed that there is a need to get people to care about water. Collaboration between schools and RWW is a necessity and would like to see the children become ambassadors to these causes the RWW is working to address. Spoke of many organizations that have materials in place to assist in educating children.

### **Other Business**

No other items were discussed. It was suggested that this agenda section would serve as the aforementioned “parking lot” so topics listed don’t fall through the cracks. Mr. Foster suggested having “parking lot” champions to spearhead necessary efforts on topics listed here.

### **Comments**

#### **1. Vacancy on RWW**

Ms. McGuire has moved out of Readington and therefore has resigned from RWW. Mayor Huelsebusch has been speaking with Chair Orlandi about a replacement. The Township Committee is responsible for appointing people to the advisory boards. Mr. Becker asked if this vacancy was posted on the Township website; it may provide a list of people who would be interested in serving. It was suggested that a small article be written for the Readington News informing of the existence of the RWW and its purpose and goals. Mr. Foster volunteered to write this article.

#### **2. Brine versus Salt**

Mr. Hendrickson gave a brief overview regarding the use of brine instead of salts for the roads in the winter months when ice and snow are expected. The committee will look to gather data and research on the effect to the groundwater. Discussion ensued regarding using test strips to test the streams in the area for chloride to determine how the use of salt is impacting the streams.

#### **3. Erosion**

Mr. Heller reported of a complaint received via letter to the Township Committee regarding erosion on properties located on tributaries. In some cases, the houses were built too close to the stream. This is not a Township infrastructure issue but rather a problem for property owners as the erosion problem is on private property. The complaint was just recently brought forth to the Township Committee and fact finding about the problem is currently underway.

### **Adjournment**

It was moved by Mr. Becker, and seconded by Mr. Foster, to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Radziewicz  
Advisory Boards Secretary